

FAIL TO SHAKE STORY OF MRS. DE SAULLES

Slayer of Husband Keeps Nerve Under Grueling Quiz by Prosecution

CROWD JAMS COURTROOM

Witness Balks State by Clever Explanation of Letters to Her Victim

MINNEOLA, L. I., Nov. 27.—Mrs. Blanca De Saulles, charged with the murder of her husband, John Longor De Saulles, withstood a grueling cross-examination here today at the hands of District Attorney Weeks. Her testimony emerged from the morning session with her direct testimony unshaken.

The prosecution assailed Mrs. De Saulles' testimony from every angle. He was not spoken but asked, he demanded that the testimony of the defense that it was possible for Mrs. De Saulles to suffer a lapse of memory during the progress of the murder and then to recover so rapidly and completely.

The District Attorney struck from an unexpected angle when he introduced a series of letters between the defendant and her husband. His object was to show that there was doubt in Mrs. De Saulles' mind as early as 1914 as to her husband's loyalty and faithfulness.

Hundreds crowded the corridors of the little Minneola courthouse during the early hours, hoping to edge their way into the limited audience which is being permitted to hear the answers of Blanca De Saulles, the girl who charged with the murder of her former husband, Jack De Saulles.

The largest part of the crowd was doomed to disappointment. Profiting by the experience of yesterday's stampede, court officers were prepared to handle the crowd.

As she again took her seat on the witness stand, Mrs. De Saulles looked more than usual in a white crepe-de-chine blouse, she wore the blue satin skirt.

District Attorney Weeks took no time in attacking the defense's plea, "lapse of memory and temporary irresponsibility."

"You stated yesterday you recalled nothing from the time your husband said you could not see your baby boy until you regained consciousness at the jail. Is that right?" the attorney asked.

"It is," the witness replied, in perfectly even tones, suggesting she was master of the situation.

"Have you suffered any lapses of memory since that time?"

"I have not."

"Then you remember all you testified to yesterday?"

"Yes, I think I do."

"Now, may I ask, when did you first find out your husband did not care for you?"

"When we went to Europe before the war."

"Were you unhappy at South Bethlehem while with the De Saulles family?"

"CALLED HIM 'IDEAL HUSBAND'"

Attorney Weeks took a sudden turn in his attack and produced a letter written by the defendant immediately after the birth of the boy. The letter was to De Saulles, and said in part:

"You have been such a precious ideal husband, and now you are also an ideal father."

"Were you sincere when you wrote that letter?" she was asked.

"I meant part of it," was the reply.

Before introducing a second letter, the witness was asked if her husband had become somewhat neglected while she was in London in 1914.

"He had," she replied.

The second letter was written by the wife in London while De Saulles, with the baby, remained in New York. It emphasized her faithfulness to her husband, adding she was playing in the sunshine, drinking it all in, forgetful of everything except the joys of living.

She admitted she was happy and having a good time when she wrote the letter. "Happy," she explained, "because I was with my own relatives."

The prosecution received a setback when it tried to prove that the witness was very happy when she wrote the letter. The court intervened and permitted Mrs. De Saulles to explain her "happiness."

"I will say I never wrote a letter," she said, "permitting persons to get the idea I was not happy. I was proud and wanted them all to believe I was happy."

on a large war contract to furnish horses to the Canadian Government," he asked. "I heard of a war contract, but didn't know the details," was the reply.

"Don't you know these two gentlemen cleaned up \$50,000 on this contract?"

"If they did, I did not see the money," he replied.

Referring to the time in the fall of 1914, when, as the witness told, she was hospitalized by a hotel clerk in London, who asked her "which wife she was," Weeks produced another letter.

The letter was written on the arrival of the defendant in America to the husband, who was then in France. The date was Christmas, 1914.

The letter professed love and fondness for the husband, but the defendant said:

"I was very unhappy and very hurt. My heart was broken when I wrote it."

"Did you really think your husband was working so hard as you implied in your letter to him?"

"Well, he told me he was working so hard he had no time to look after me."

Then the prosecution for the first time brought in the name of Harold Fowler, a New York man now fighting in France.

It was Fowler with whom Mrs. De Saulles dined in London; it was Fowler who was on the Lusitania on the return from London, and it was Fowler with whom she dined after arriving in New York.

"I should like to ask," said the attorney, "was your heart broken at that time?"

"I was miserable."

"Well, can you dance with your feet when your heart is broken?"

"I can, and love."

Then followed another series of letters, by which the prosecution hoped to offset the claim of a broken heart, which led up to the shooting.

Going back to her testimony when she said that when she heard of the Lusitania going down "she wished she was on it," the attorney asked if she recalled making the statement.

"I don't know that I made the statement, but I wished it."

"Isn't it a fact that Mr. De Saulles said that he wished he was on the boat?"

She smiled as she replied:

"I don't remember."

The prosecution then produced a letter written by Blanca to her husband, thanking him for flowers he had sent her to "kill" as another evidence that his love for her had not ceased.

"Is it true that since the birth of your child you were a wife to your husband in name only?" Weeks demanded.

"That is not true," came the hot retort. "I was a wife to him, but I told Mrs. Heckler, his sister, that I was not. That matter was my affair."

SHE PAID HOUSEHOLD BILLS

While the District Attorney was showing identification checks drawn by Jack De Saulles in favor of his wife to show that De Saulles was not spending his wife's

money, the witness was asked about one check for \$300.

"Yes, he gave that to me," she admitted. "It was my birthday and that was my present—a part of the money he owed me."

Asked as to who paid the household bills while living in the Seventy-eighth street property, New York city, she replied:

"I did, whenever I had the money."

Returning again to her trip to Chitt, the District Attorney asked if her husband did not pay her way and give her a letter of credit for \$2000.

"I don't remember," she replied.

"Then do you recall trading in a ring for a new one?"

"Yes."

"What did the second ring cost?"

"Eighteen thousand dollars."

After further evidence concerning financial affairs, Attorney Weeks turned and asked:

Mrs. De Saulles, when did you first learn you shot your husband?"

"Without the quiver of an eyelash or show of emotion," she replied.

"When Dr. Wacht told me."

"You know nothing about it at that time—the time of the shooting?"

"No."

WOULD REVISE INCOME TAX

President of Credit Men's Association Suggests Amendments to Law

Amendments to the later income tax law have been suggested by Walter K. Harbit, president of the Credit Men's Association of Philadelphia, in a letter to William G. McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury. It was stated at the association luncheon at the Hotel Adelphia today.

In explaining his action, Mr. Harbit said: "After digesting the latest income tax law and noting the general disposition to evade intent without violating its provisions, I have about concluded that an important

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feature has been overlooked. As the bill now stands the frugal savior of business men is not rewarded, whereas the lavish business men benefit.

In a reply to his letter Mr. Harbit has been notified by Daniel C. Roper, head of the income tax department, that he would take his recommendations under consideration.

Warwick J. Price, a writer, in presenting an analysis of the Russian situation to the association members, said that the world has agreed that the Russian democratic experiment will succeed.

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